

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 ONY-00 /004 W  
-----221843Z 073461 /44

P 221616Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6600

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5537

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OGEN  
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. DICK COMBS APPRECIATED YOUR INFORMATION ABOUT HIS  
UPCOMING HOME LEAVE CONSULTATIONS, AND CERTAINLY WILL  
PLAN TO TALK WITH PARKER AND HERSPRING. DICK WILL BE  
GLAD TO MEET WITH ANYONE ELSE YOU SUGGEST. HE WOULD  
BE MUCH OBLIGED IF SOMEONE COULD CHECK WITH LAURA FULLER  
OF THE SPEAKERS' DIVISION IN A WEEK OR SO TO ENSURE THAT  
WORK IS PROCEEDING APACE ON HIS SPEAKING TRIP.

2. WE THINK SOV IS TO BE COMMENDED FOR ESTABLISHING AN OUT-  
STANDING RECORD OF RESPONSIVENESS TO SOVIET EMBASSY CONSULAR  
REQUESTS SFOR ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING MEETING WITH AMERICAN  
FEDERAL AND LOCAL OFFICIALS AND IN PROVIDING CONSULAR ACCESS  
TO SOVIET NATIONALS EVEN IN SITUATIONS WHERE CONSULAR CONVENTION  
DOES NOT CALL FOR SUCH ACCESS (E.G., SOVIET DEFECTORS). THE  
FACT THAT YOU HAVE SUCH A RECORD SHOULD CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE TO  
OUR SOVIET COUNTERPARTS WHAT A CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP ON  
THE CONSULAR WORKING LEVEL SHOULD BE LIKE IN THE ERA OF DETENTE.  
IT SHOULD ALSO SERVE AS A STANDARD FOR THE KIND OF TREATMENT  
OUR CONSULAR OFFICERS IN THE SOVIET UNION HAVE A RIGHT TO  
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EXPECT. AS YOU ARE UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE, HOWEVER, THE MFA NORMALLY  
TRIES TO BLOCK OUR CONSULAR OFFICERS FROM MEANINGFUL MEETINGS  
WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS, AS IN RECENT MFA REFUSLAS OF REQUESTS  
BY RAY SMITH AND LARRY NAPPER TO MEET WITH LOCAL OVIR OFFICIALS  
(SEE MOSCOW 4954). EVEN IN OCCASIONAL INSTANCES WHEN THE MFA  
DOES ARRANGE MEETINGS, NO DIALOGUE IS POSSIBLE. WE ARE PERMITTED  
TO POSIT A FEW QUESTIONS TO WHICH SEVERAL WEEKS OR MONTHS THERE-

AFTER WE RECEIVE INCOMPLETE AND UNSATISFACTORY REPLIES VIA THE CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION (E.G., WE ARE NOTIFIED SIMPLY THAT THE "COMPETENT AUTHORITIES" HAVE UPHOLD A PREVIOUS REFUSAL, BUT WITH NO REASONS PROVIDED). EVEN WHEN NO POLITICAL SENSIBILITIES ARE INVOLVED, THE MFA CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION RARELY GOES OUT OF ITS WAY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE. YOU WILL RECALL, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION GAVE US VIRTUALLY NO HELP WHEN WE WERE TRYING TO LOCATE THE MISSING MRS. LAMURAGLIA, THE PAN AM OFFICIAL'S WIFE HIT BY A TRUCK HERE LATE LAST YEAR. SINCE THE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE WAS MADE AFTER OFFICE HOURS, THE CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION SIMPLY REFERRED US AFTER SEVERAL HOURS TO THE POLICE. BY SHEER CHANCE, LOCAL POLICE KNEW THAT SHE WAS IN THE HOSPITAL, BUT THE LATTER SIMPLY INFORMED MR. LAMURAGLIA THAT HIS WIFE WAS IN "SERIOUS" CONDITION AS RESULT OF ACCIDENT. HE WAS GIVEN NO DETAILS AND WAS NOT PERMITTED EITHER TO SEE HER OR TALK WITH DOCTOR UNTIL THE NEXT DAY. WHILE THIS IS PROBABLY NORMAL HOSPITAL TREATMENT, A LITTLE ASSISTANCE FROM MFA COULD HAVE SAVED MR. LAMURAGLIA A NIGHT OF CONSIDERABLE ANGUISH.

3. WE ARE SURE THAT YOU ARE ALSO AWARE OF CONSULAR ACCESS PROBLEMS IN MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD IN THE CASE BOTH OF AMERICANS TEMPORARILY DETAINED (FOR MOST RECENT CASE, SEE MOSCOW 5248) AND OF SOVIET NATIONALS TRYING TO ENTER THE EMBASSY ON CONSULAR BUSINESS, TO SAY NOTHING OF SOVIET NATIONALS TRYING TO VIST EMBASSY PERSONNEL WHO INVITE THEM (MOSCOW 5393). WE THINK THAT FOR STARTERS, YOUR SHOULD POINT OUT TO SOVIET CONSULAR OFFICERS IN WASHINGTON THE INEQUITIES AND PROVIDE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES. THEN, IF THE NON-COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE OF THE MFA

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PERSISTS, THE OBVIOUS CONCLUSION IS THAT CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TOWARD ARRANGING SOME SORT OF RECIPROCAL TREATMENT IN WASHINGTON. WHEN THE SOVIET EMBASSY REQUESTS SOV INTERCESSION WITH VIRGINIA POLICE OR COURT OFFICIALS, FOR EXAMPLE, IT WOULD BE VERY EASY TO HAVE THEM FOLLOW THE SAME PROCEDURES WE ARE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW HERE. IN OTHER WORDS, THEY CAN BE ASKED TO SUBMIT A NOTE OR NON-PAPER TO YOU, WHICH YOU CAN FORWARD TO THE "COMPETENT AUTHORITIES" WHO AT THEIR LEISURE CAN THEN SUBMIT A NON-RESPONSIVE OR SIME-RESPONSIVE REPLY TO SOV FOR TRANSMITTAL. SIMILARLY, YOU MIGHT CONSIDER AT LEAST OCCASIONALLY DENYING ACCESS TO DEFECTION, PARTICULARLY WHEN THE LATTER PREFER NOT TO MEET SOVIET OFFICIALS, ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE CONSULAR CONVENTION DOES NOT CALL FOR SUCH ACCESS (EVEN WHEN THE SOVIT EMBASSY PROVIDES SUCH SPECIOUS JUSTIFICATION AS IT DID IN CONNECTION WITH ITS REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO DEFECTION ANATOLIY SEMENOV (SEE YOUR MEMCON DATED APRIL 12, 1977, SUBJECT: "VARIOUS BILATERAL MATTERS").

4. WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO HEAR YOUR COMMENTS.

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## Message Attributes

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